

214A

PLANE 9-25 SX CPYRGHT

NIGHT LD

BOISE, IDAHO (UPI)--THE BODIES OF FOUR MEN, INCLUDING A BROTHER-IN-LAW OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, WERE FLOWN EAST EARLY SUNDAY FOLLOWING A BACK-COUNTRY PLANE CRASH WHICH BROUGHT A TRAGIC END TO AN ELK HUNTING TRIP.

BOISE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT OFFICIALS SAID A PLANE OWNED BY THE GREAT LAKES CARBON CO. OF NEW YORK LEFT BOISE ABOUT 3 A.M. MST (6 A.M. EDT) CARRYING THE BODIES OF GEORGE SKAKEL JR., 46, GREENWICH, CONN., PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY AND BROTHER OF MRS. ROBERT F. KENNEDY; DEAN P. MARKUM, ABOUT 47, MC LEAN, VA., ASSISTANT TO SKAKEL; EARL RANFT, JERSEY CITY, N.J., PRESIDENT OF DRAYBAR HAULAGE; AND LEWIS WARNER, ST. LOUIS, OPERATOR OF AN INVESTMENT FIRM.

THE PLANE'S FIRST STOP WAS SCHEDULED AT ST. LOUIS.

IT WAS BELIEVED THE 16 SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE HUNTING PARTY, INCLUDING THE TEEN-AGE SON OF SKAKEL, ALSO WERE ON THE EAST-BOUND PLANE. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HUNTING PARTY HAD BEEN SAFELY FLOWN INTO THE CRAGGY, MOUNTAINOUS HEART OF IDAHO'S PRIMITIVE COUNTRY NEAR THE MAIN SALMON RIVER FRIDAY BEFORE THE FINAL PLANE LOAD CRASHED AFTER FAILING TO LAND ON THE NARROW AIR STRIP.

ALSO KILLED IN THE CRASH WAS THE PLANE'S PILOT, SGT. DONALD ADAMS, MOUNTAIN HOME AIR FORCE BASE, WYO.

IDAHO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICERS USED HORSES AND A HELICOPTER TO MOVE THE BODIES FROM THE CRASH SITE TO THE LITTLE TOWN OF WARREN, WHICH IS ON A DIRT ROAD SOUTH OF THE SALMON RIVER, SATURDAY.

SHERIFF GENE FUZZELL SAID THE HELICOPTER WAS ABLE TO SET DOWN ABOUT A HALF-MILE FROM THE SCENE. HE SAID THE PLANE WAS BADLY TORN UP WHEN IT SMASHED INTO THE STEEP, HEAVILY TIMBERED TERRAIN.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN A CRASH SO BAD," FUZZELL SAID. THE SINGLE-ENGINE CESSNA 185 CRASHED INTO A WILDERNESS CANYON FRIDAY, BUT DUE TO A LACK OF TELEPHONE AND RADIO COMMUNICATIONS IN THE MOUNTAIN COUNTRY, NO MAJOR RESCUE OPERATION COULD BE ORGANIZED UNTIL THE NEXT MORNING.

THOMAS WYMAN, NEW YORK CITY, A MEMBER OF THE ILL-FATED HUNTING PARTY, SAID HE WAS ON AN EARLIER PLANE AND SAW THE SKAKEL CRAFT TRY TO LAND.

"HE OVERSHOT THE RUNWAY AND CAME DOWN ON THE RUNWAY AND THEN TOOK OFF AGAIN," WYMAN SAID.

HE AND OTHER FRIENDS OF THE VICTIMS HIKE INTO CROOKED CREEK CANYON DURING THE NIGHT AND FOUND THE WRECKAGE. THEY HAD HEARD THE PLANE CRASH AFTER THE PILOT DECIDED TO ABORT HIS LANDING AND TRY AGAIN TO PUT IT DOWN ON THE AIRSTRIP.

THE SITE OF THE CRASH WAS NOT MANY MILES FROM THE MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER WHERE SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, HIS FAMILY AND ASTRONAUT JOHN GLENN AND FAMILY SPENT THEIR FOURTH OF JULY HOLIDAY WEEKEND ON A BOATING TRIP.

UPI 13PPD.

SEP - 1966